

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Cleaning and Repair of Sewer Laterals

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Purpose

The Board of Supervisors, acting as the Board of Directors for numerous sanitation districts in the County of San Diego, desires to establish policy for the cleaning and repair of sewer laterals.

Background

Prior to July 1, 1969, it was the practice of the County to clean as well as repair the sewer laterals from the property line to the street sewer main. The property owner was then responsible for cleaning and repairing only that portion of the lateral connection located between his/her building and the property line.

At the request of the construction industry, the County Plumbing Code (Ordinance No. 3222 N.S.) makes provision for deletion of the previously required property line clean-out since a readily accessible clean-out at grade level is installed in the lateral near the building it serves.

On March 18, 1969 (Item C) the Board of Supervisors rescinded its prior policy which provided for sanitation districts to install property line clean-outs. On that date the Board of Supervisors also directed that all sanitation districts terminate the program of routine cleaning of sewer laterals effective July 1, 1969.

The following clarifies the Board's intent and outlines the procedures to be followed:

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors, acting as the Board of Directors of sanitation districts in San Diego County, that:

When a sewer lateral does not properly drain, the owner of the property served by this lateral is responsible for a reasonable effort to remove the stoppage.

When the owner has made a reasonable attempt to clear his/her service lateral but was unable to restore the flow; and

When it has been established that the stoppage is located between the property line and the sewer main in the public easement,

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Then Operation and Maintenance Personnel from the appropriate County department will be responsible to clear or otherwise repair that portion of the lateral located between the property line and the sewer main as soon as possible.

For the purposes of this policy:

A reasonable attempt will be defined as an unsuccessful attempt to remove the stoppage, using a licensed plumber or firm specializing in cleaning sewer laterals. Showing a reasonable attempt will require a receipt or a signed statement, from a licensed plumber or firm specializing in cleaning sewer laterals, giving adequate assurance that tools normally employed for cleaning laterals were used but were unsuccessful in removing the stoppage from the lateral.

A sewer lateral will be defined as the conduit that transports the sewage from the building it serves to the sewer main located in a public easement or right of way.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-15.

Board Action

12-1-69 (36)

6-20-89 (63)

4-14-99 (11)

08-07-02 (5)

12-09-08 (33)

CAO Reference

1. Department of Public Works